Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *Quarterly Public Employee Retirement* Statistics Users Respondent Base

U.S. Census Bureau
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

(1)   Monthly

0.0%;	0	None
92.3%;	12	Retail Sales
84.6%;	11	Wholesale Trade
84.6%;	11	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
76.9%;	10	Housing Starts
84.6%;	11	Building Permits
84.6%;	11	New Home Sales
76.9%;	10	Value of New Construction Put in Place
76.9%;	10	Housing Completions
76.9%;	10	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
69.2%;	9	New Residential Construction
53.8%;	7	New Mobile Home Placements
84.6%;	11	Monthly Imports and Exports
53.8%;	7	Current Industrial Reports
61.5%;	8	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

Replies 13; Forms 13

(2)   Quarterly

92.3%;	12	Quarterly Financial Report
69.2%;	9	Current Industrial Reports
38.5%;	5	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
69.2%;	9	Quarterly Tax Survey
100.0%;	13	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

Replies 13; Forms 13

(3)   Annual

91.7%;	11	Annual Retail Trade
83.3%;	10	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
66.7%;	8	Annual Survey of Communications
75.0%;	9	Transportation Annual Survey
75.0%;	9	Service Annual Survey
83.3%;	10	County Business Patterns

66.7%;   8 ZIP Code Business Patterns
75.0%;   9 Statistics of U.S. Businesses
75.0%;   9 Characteristics of New Housing
58.3%;   7 Annual Building Permits
58.3%;   7 New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
75.0%;   9 Annual Capital Expenditures
66.7%;   8 Annual Survey of Manufactures
75.0%;   9 Current Industrial Reports
66.7%;   8 Research and Development Survey
58.3%;   7 Plant Capacity Utilization
58.3%;   7 Education Finance Survey
66.7%;   8 State Tax Collection Survey
66.7%;   8 Annual Public Employee Retirement
66.7%;   8 Annual Survey of Public Employment
58.3%;   7 Consolidated Federal Funds Report
75.0%;   9 State Government Finances
66.7%;   8 Annual Imports and Exports

Replies 12; Forms 13

II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4)   2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

92.3%;	12	Printed Publications	7.7%;	1	Direct (E-mail) delivery
84.6%;	11	World Wide Web (Internet)	7.7%;	1	Diskettes
30.8%;	4	CD-ROMs	0.0%;	0	Other
15.4%;	2	FAX			

Replies 13; Forms 13

- [none]

(5)   3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

50.0%;   6 Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
33.3%;   4 ASCII flat files
25.0%;   3 Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
16.7%;   2 Do not manipulate data
 8.3%;   1 ASCII delimited
 8.3%;   1 Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
 0.0%;   0 Other

Replies 12; Forms 13

- [none]

4.   What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site?   (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:

| 22.2%; | 2 5 | 22.2%; | 2 3 | 22.2%; | 2 1 |
| 0.0%; | 0 4 | 0.0%; | 0 2 | 33.3%; | 3 Don't know |

Replies 9; Forms 13

(7) b. E-mail notification:

| 30.0%; | 3 5 | 20.0%; | 2 3 | 20.0%; | 2 1 |
| 0.0%; | 0 4 | 10.0%; | 1 2 | 20.0%; | 2 Don't know |

Replies 10; Forms 13

(8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:

| 50.0%; | 5 5 | 20.0%; | 2 3 | 0.0%; | 0 1 |
| 20.0%; | 2 4 | 0.0%; | 0 2 | 10.0%; | 1 Don't know |

Replies 10; Forms 13

(9) d. Search:

| 91.7%; | 11 5 | 8.3%; | 1 3 | 0.0%; | 0 1 |
| 0.0%; | 0 4 | 0.0%; | 0 2 | 0.0%; | 0 Don't know |

Replies 12; Forms 13

(10) e. Download complete data sets:

| 80.0%; | 8 5 | 20.0%; | 2 3 | 0.0%; | 0 1 |
| 0.0%; | 0 4 | 0.0%; | 0 2 | 0.0%; | 0 Don't know |

Replies 10; Forms 13

(11) f. Download selected data:

| 72.7%; | 8 5 | 9.1%; | 1 3 | 0.0%; | 0 1 |
| 18.2%; | 2 4 | 0.0%; | 0 2 | 0.0%; | 0 Don't know |

Replies 11; Forms 13

(12) g. Software help/tutorials:

| 40.0%; | 4 5 | 30.0%; | 3 3 | 0.0%; | 0 1 |
| 10.0%; | 1 4 | 0.0%; | 0 2 | 20.0%; | 2 Don't know |

Replies 10; Forms 13

(13) h. Publication-quality printing:

| 40.0%; | 4 5 | 20.0%; | 2 3 | 0.0%; | 0 1 |
| 30.0%; | 3 4 | 0.0%; | 0 2 | 10.0%; | 1 Don't know |

Replies 10; Forms 13

(14) i. Charts and graphs:

| 53.8%; | 7 | 5 | 7.7%; | 1 | 3 | 0.0%; | 0 | 1 |
| 23.1%; | 3 | 4 | 7.7%; | 1 | 2 | 7.7%; | 1 | Don't know |

Replies 13; Forms 13

(15) j. Geographic maps:

| 58.3%; | 7 | 5 | 0.0%; | 0 | 3 | 8.3%; | 1 | 1 |
| 25.0%; | 3 | 4 | 0.0%; | 0 | 2 | 8.3%; | 1 | Don't know |

Replies 12; Forms 13

(16) k.   Other, please specify:

Replies 1; Forms 13

- electronic bulletin board

(17) l. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

| 0.0%; | 0 | 5 | 0.0%; | 0 | 3 | 0.0%; | 0 | 1 |
| 0.0%; | 0 | 4 | 0.0%; | 0 | 2 | 0.0%; | 0 | Don't know |

Replies 0; Forms 13

III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

| 46.2%; | 6 No | 53.8%; | 7 Yes |

Replies 13; Forms 13

(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

72.7%;	8 latest 1 or 2 periods	63.6%;	7 trends up to 5 years
72.7%;	8 trends up to 1 year	0.0%;	0 Other
72.7%;	8 5+ years		

Replies 11; Forms 13

(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

45.5%;	5 Perform patron/client inquiries
36.4%;	4 Create value-added products/services
27.3%;	3 Republish in newspaper/journal
18.2%;	2 Inform investment decisions
18.2%;	2 Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
9.1%;	1 Inform marketing decisions
9.1%;	1 Locate new sites
0.0%;	0 Other

Replies 11; Forms 13

- [none]

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(21) 8.   What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

   80.0%;   8 Sampling and estimation methodology
   70.0%;   7 Definition of terms
   70.0%;   7 Narrative text describing survey results
   50.0%;   5 Survey design
   20.0%;   2 None
     0.0%;   0 Other

Replies 10; Forms 13

- [none]

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(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

- The availability of Residential and Commercial Building Permit Data.
- Would like Government Finance series in print form.
- Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
- Median income and poverty tables are not in spreadsheet form (they one were).

IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: http://www.census.gov/NAICS.

(24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

   70.0%;   7 4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
   60.0%;   6 Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
   40.0%;   4 2-digit major groups
   40.0%;   4 3-digit industry groups
   10.0%;   1 Other

Replies 10; Forms 13

- Would like to have 6 or 7 digit SIC

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(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

   16.7%;   2 I was unaware of this
   41.7%;   5 I am partially aware, but lack details
   41.7%;   5 I am aware and understand some implications

Replies 12; Forms 13

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12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

100.0%;	7	A brochure that explains NAICS	42.9%;	3 Conference announcements
85.7%;	6	NAICS implementation plans	0.0%;	0 Other

Replies 7; Forms 13

- [none]

(27) No Thanks -

60.0%;	3	I will check the Census Bureau's web site (www.census.gov/naics)
40.0%;	2	I don't need more information about NAICS

Replies 5; Forms 13

V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13.   Type of organization.

30.8%;	4 Business		15.4%;	2 Academic/Research
23.1%;	3 Government		7.7%;	1 Other
23.1%;	3 Media			

Replies 13; Forms 13

- Library (University

(29) 14.   Do you work in your organization's library?

61.5%;	8 Yes		38.5%;	5 No

Replies 13; Forms 13

(30) 15.   What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

69.2%;	9 None		23.1%;	3 Other
7.7%;	1 State Data Center			

Replies 13; Forms 13

- Affiliate Data Center
- Data use.
- GPO Depository

(35) 20.   May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

60.0%;	6 Yes		40.0%;	4 No

Replies 10; Forms 13

(36) Question 21. Remarks:

- Census bureau data is always helful--the data you provide enhances our publication and enables readers to make informal business decisions.
- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.

Figure 1: